

## PATENT CLAIMS

1. Input unit for a field device, characterized in that the input unit (IU) comprises a registering unit (RU) for an electronic identifier of a user, which enables a definite identification of the user.
2. Input unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the electronic identifier is a signature.
3. Input unit as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the signature is entered by the user by hand via a display (D) provided on the registering unit (RU).
4. Input unit as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the signature is transferred from a portable transmitter via radio transmission to the registering unit (RU).
5. Input unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the signature serves for the signing of electronic documents.
6. Input unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the input unit is implemented as a field device.
7. Transmitting unit for process automation technology, characterized in that an electronic signature of the user is stored therein, and is wirelessly transmitted to the registering unit.
8. Unit as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it satisfies the FDA certification regulations 21 CFR Part 11 Rules.
9. Input unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the input unit (IU) is connectable to a communications network (CN).
10. Input unit as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that electronic documents shown on the display (D) can, using inputs via the display (D), be signed, and/or annotated, in handwriting by the user.
11. Input unit as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that annotations to the electronic documents are saved such that they are unchangeable, and/or provided with the clock-time of the input.